

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1.- 26. (cancelled)

27. (currently amended): A process for preparation of a press-molding glass preform in which a glass melt is dripped or flowed out of a flow pipe and received in a receiving mold via a gas, and the resulting glass gob is shaped to a desired shape to produce a preform,

wherein the press-molding glass preform is comprised of an optical glass comprising, by means of weight percentages, more than 32 percent and not more than 45 percent  $P_2O_5$ , more than 0.5 percent and not more than 6 percent  $Li_2O$ , more than 5 percent and not more than 22 percent  $Na_2O$ , 6-30 percent  $Nb_2O_5$ , 0.5-10 percent  $B_2O_3$ , 0-35 percent  $WO_3$ , 0-14 percent  $K_2O$ , and 10-24 percent  $Na_2O + K_2O$ , wherein the sum of the oxides of P, Li, Na, Nb, B, W, and K is not less than 80 percent and, wherein the optical glass does not comprise  $PbO$ .

28. (currently amended) The process of claim + 27, wherein the dripped glass has a viscosity ranging from 3 to 30 dPa·s.

29. (currently amended): The process of claim + 27, wherein the flowed glass has a viscosity ranging from 5 to 60 dPa·s.

30. (previously presented): The process of claim 29, wherein the receiving mold is lowered to sever the glass flow to produce a glass gob.

31. (previously presented): A process for preparation of an optical article in which a press-molding glass preform is heated and press-molded to produce the optical article, wherein the press-molding glass preform is a preform prepared by the process of claim 27.

32. (previously presented): The process of claim 31, wherein the glass preform is positioned between a lower mold and an upper mold and the glass preform is subsequently heated to a temperature at which the glass preform exhibits a viscosity of 107-108 dPa·s.

33. (previously presented): The process of claim 31, wherein the glass preform is heated to a temperature corresponding to a viscosity in the glass preform of less than 109 dPa·s and softened, and the softened glass preform is press-molded with a mold preheated to a temperature at which the glass preform exhibits a viscosity of 109-1012 dPa·s.

34. (currently amended): A process for preparation of a press-molding glass preform in which a glass melt is dripped or flowed out of a flow pipe and received in a receiving mold via a gas, and the resulting glass gob is shaped to a desired shape to produce a preform,

wherein the press-molding glass preform is comprised of an optical glass comprised of phosphate glass comprising, by means of weight percentages, more than 0.5 percent and not more than 6 percent  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$ , more than 5 percent and not more than 22 percent  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ , 0-14 percent  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$ , 10-24 percent  $\text{Na}_2\text{O} + \text{K}_2\text{O}$ , 6-30 percent  $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ , and not more than 45 percent  $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$ , and exhibits a refractive index (nd) of 1.64-1.72, an Abbé number (vd) of 29-36, a sag temperature (Ts) of not more than 520°C and wherein the optical glass does not comprise PbO.

35. (previously presented): The process of claim 34, wherein the dripped glass has a viscosity ranging from 3 to 30 dPa·s.

36. (previously presented): The process of claim 34, wherein the flowed glass has a viscosity ranging from 5 to 60 dPa·s.

37. (previously presented): The process of claim 36, wherein the receiving mold is lowered to sever the glass flow to produce a glass gob.

38. (previously presented): A process for preparation of an optical article in which a press-molding glass preform is heated and press-molded to produce the optical article,

wherein the press-molding glass preform is a preform prepared by the process of claim 34.

39. (previously presented): The process of claim 38, wherein the glass preform is positioned between a lower mold and an upper mold and the glass preform is subsequently heated to a temperature at which the glass preform exhibits a viscosity of  $10^7$ - $10^8$  dPa·s.

40. (previously presented): The process of claim 38, wherein the glass preform is heated to a temperature corresponding to a viscosity in the glass preform of less than  $10^9$  dPa·s and softened, and the softened glass preform is press-molded with a mold preheated to a temperature at which the glass preform exhibits a viscosity of  $10^9$ - $10^{12}$  dPa·s.

41. (currently amended): A process for preparation of a press-molding glass preform in which a glass melt is dripped or flowed out of a flow pipe and received in a receiving mold via a gas, and the resulting glass gob is shaped to a desired shape to produce a preform,

wherein the press-molding glass preform is comprised of an optical glass comprised of phosphate glass comprising, by means of weight percentages, more than 0.5 percent and not more than 6 percent  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$ , more than 5 percent and not more than 22 percent  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ , 0-14 percent  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$ , 10-24 percent  $\text{Na}_2\text{O} + \text{K}_2\text{O}$ , 6-30 percent  $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ , 0-35 percent  $\text{WO}_3$ , 0-5 percent  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , and ~~not less than 0 percent~~ or greater but less than 8 percent  $\text{TiO}_2$ , and exhibits a refractive index (nd) of 1.64-1.72, an Abbé number (vd) of 29-36, a sag temperature ( $T_s$ ) of not more than  $520^\circ\text{C}$  and wherein the optical glass does not comprise  $\text{PbO}$ .

42. (previously presented): The process of claim 41, wherein the dripped glass has a viscosity ranging from 3 to 30 dPa·s.

43. (previously presented): The process of claim 41, wherein the flowed glass has a viscosity ranging from 5 to 60 dPa·s.

44. (previously presented): The process of claim 43, wherein the receiving mold is lowered to sever the glass flow to produce a glass gob.

45. (previously presented): A process for preparation of an optical article in which a press-molding glass preform is heated and press-molded to produce the optical article,

wherein the press-molding glass preform is a preform prepared by the process of claim 41.

46. (previously presented): The process of claim 45, wherein the glass preform is positioned between a lower mold and an upper mold and the glass preform is subsequently heated to a temperature at which the glass preform exhibits a viscosity of  $10^7$ - $10^8$  dPa·s.

47. (previously presented): The process of claim 45, wherein the glass preform is heated to a temperature corresponding to a viscosity in the glass preform of less than  $10^9$  dPa·s and softened, and the softened glass preform is press-molded with a mold preheated to a temperature at which the glass preform exhibits a viscosity of  $10^9$ - $10^{12}$  dPa·s.

48. (currently amended): A process for preparation of a press-molding glass preform in which a glass melt is dripped or flowed out of a flow pipe and received in a receiving mold via a gas, and the resulting glass gob is shaped to a desired shape to produce a preform,

wherein the press-molding glass preform is comprises, by means of weight percentages, more than 32 percent and not more than 45 percent  $P_2O_5$ , more than 0.5 percent and not more than 6 percent  $Li_2O$ , more than 5 percent and not more than 22 percent  $Na_2O$ , 630 percent  $Nb_2O_5$ , 0.5-10 percent  $B_2O_3$ , 0-35 percent  $WO_3$ , 0-14 percent  $K_2O$ , and 10-24 percent  $Na_2O + K_2O$ , 0-2 percent  $SiO_2$ , 0-5 percent  $Al_2O_3$ , ~~not less than 0 percent~~ or greater but less than 8 percent  $TiO_2$ , 0-15 percent  $ZnO$ , 0-12 percent  $BaO$ , ~~not less than 0 percent~~ or greater but less than 1 percent  $Sb_2O_3$ , and 0-1 percent  $SnO_2$ , wherein the sum of the oxides of P, Li, Na, Nb, B, W, K, Si, Al, Ti, Zn, Ba, Sb, and Sn is not less than 95 percent, and exhibits a refractive index (nd) of 1.64-1.72, an Abbe number (vd) of 29-36, a sag temperature ( $T_s$ ) of not more than 520°C and wherein the optical glass does not comprise  $PbO$ .

49. (previously presented): The process of claim 48, wherein the dripped glass has a viscosity ranging from 3 to 30 dPa·s.

50. (previously presented): The process of claim 48, wherein the flowed glass has a viscosity ranging from 5 to 60 dPa·s.

51. (previously presented): The process of claim 50, wherein the receiving mold is lowered to sever the glass flow to produce a glass gob.

52. (previously presented): A process for preparation of an optical article in which a press-molding glass preform is heated and press-molded to produce the optical article,

wherein the press-molding glass preform is a preform prepared by the process of claim

48.

53. (previously presented): The process of claim 52, wherein the glass preform is positioned between a lower mold and an upper mold and the glass preform is subsequently heated to a temperature at which the glass preform exhibits a viscosity of  $10^7$ - $10^8$  dPa·s.

54. (previously presented): The process of claim 52, wherein the glass preform is heated to a temperature corresponding to a viscosity in the glass preform of less than  $10^9$  dPa·s and softened, and the softened glass preform is press-molded with a mold preheated to a temperature at which the glass preform exhibits a viscosity of 109-1012 dPa·s.

55. (currently amended) A process for preparation of a press-molding glass preform in which a glass melt is dripped or flowed out of a flow pipe and received in a receiving mold via a gas, and the resulting glass gob is shaped to a desired shape to produce a preform, wherein the press-molding glass preform is comprised of an optical glass comprised of phosphate glass comprising Li<sub>2</sub>O, Na<sub>2</sub>O, Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, and B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> as essential components, and 02 percent SiO<sub>2</sub> with a refractive index (nd) of 1.64-1.72, an Abbè number (vd) of 29-36, a sag temperature (Ts) of not more than 520°C, and a liquidus temperature (LT) of not more than 900°C and wherein the optical glass does not comprise PbO.

56. (previously presented) The process of claim 55, wherein the dripped glass has a viscosity ranging from 3 to 30 dPa·s.

57. (previously presented) The process of claim 55, wherein the flowed glass has a viscosity ranging from 5 to 60 dPa·s.

58. (previously presented) The process of claim 57, wherein the receiving mold is lowered to sever the glass flow to produce a glass gob.

59. (previously presented) A process for preparation of an optical article in which a press-molding glass preform is heated and press-molded to produce the optical article,

wherein the press-molding glass preform is a preform prepared by the process of claim 55.

60. (previously presented) The process of claim 59, wherein the glass preform is positioned between a lower mold and an upper mold and the glass preform is subsequently heated to a temperature at which the glass preform exhibits a viscosity of  $10^7$ - $10^8$  dPa·s.

61. (previously presented) The process of claim 59, wherein the glass preform is heated to a temperature corresponding to a viscosity in the glass preform of less than  $10^9$  dPa·s and softened, and the softened glass preform is press-molded with a mold preheated to a temperature at which the glass preform exhibits a viscosity of  $10^9$ - $10^{12}$  dPa·s.

62. (currently amended) A process for preparation of a press-molding glass preform in which a glass melt is dripped or flowed out of a flow pipe and received in a receiving mold via a gas, and the resulting glass gob is shaped to a desired shape to produce a preform,

wherein the press-molding glass preform is comprised of an optical glass comprising, by means of weight percentage, not more than 45 percent  $P_2O_5$ , more than 0.5 percent but not more than 6 percent  $Li_2O$ , not more than 22 percent  $Na_2O$ , not less than 6 percent  $Nb_2O_5$ , 0.35 percent  $WO_3$ , 0-14 percent  $K_2O$ , wherein the sum of the oxides of P, Li, Na, Nb, W, and K is not less than 80 percent, and exhibits a sag temperature ( $T_s$ ) of not more than  $520^\circ C$ , and a liquidus temperature (LT) of not more than  $900^\circ C$  and wherein the optical glass does not comprise  $PbO$ .

63. (previously presented) The process of claim 62, wherein the dripped glass has a viscosity ranging from 3 to 30 dPa·s.

64. (previously presented) The process of claim 62, wherein the flowed glass has a viscosity ranging from 5 to 60 dPa·s.

65. (previously presented) The process of claim 64, wherein the receiving mold is lowered to sever the glass flow to produce a glass gob.

66. (previously presented) A process for preparation of an optical article in which a press-molding glass preform is heated and press-molded to produce the optical article,

wherein the press-molding glass preform is a preform prepared by the process of claim 62.

67. (previously presented) The process of claim 66, wherein the glass preform is positioned between a lower mold and an upper mold and the glass preform is subsequently heated to a temperature at which the glass preform exhibits a viscosity of  $10^7$ - $10^8$  dPa·s.

68. (previously presented) The process of claim 66, wherein the glass preform is heated to a temperature corresponding to a viscosity in the glass preform of less than  $10^9$  dPa·s and softened, and the softened glass preform is press-molded with a mold preheated to a temperature at which the glass preform exhibits a viscosity of  $10^9$ - $10^{12}$  dPa·s.

69. (currently amended) A process for preparation of a press-molding glass preform in which a glass melt is dripped or flowed out of a flow pipe and received in a receiving mold via a gas, and the resulting glass gob is shaped to a desired shape to produce a preform,

wherein the press-molding glass preform is comprised of an optical glass comprising, by means of weight percentage, not more than 45 percent  $P_2O_5$ , more than 0.5 percent but not more than 6 percent  $Li_2O$ , not more than 22 percent  $Na_2O$ , not less than 6 percent  $Nb_2O_5$ , 0-35 percent  $WO_3$ , 0-14 percent  $K_2O$ , wherein the sum of the oxides of P, Li, Na, Nb, W, and K is not less than 80 percent, and exhibits a refractive index (nd) of not less than 1.64, and an Abbé number (vd) of not more than 36 and wherein the optical glass does not comprise PbO.

70. (previously presented) The process of claim 69, wherein the dripped glass has a viscosity ranging from 3 to 30 dPa·s.

71. (previously presented) The process of claim 69, wherein the flowed glass has a viscosity ranging from 5 to 60 dPa·s.

72. (previously presented) The process of claim 71, wherein the receiving mold is lowered to sever the glass flow to produce a glass gob.

73. (previously presented) A process for preparation of an optical article in which a press-molding glass preform is heated and press-molded to produce the optical article,

wherein the press-molding glass preform is a preform prepared by the process of claim 69.

74. (previously presented) The process of claim 73, wherein the glass preform is positioned between a lower mold and an upper mold and the glass preform is subsequently heated to a temperature at which the glass preform exhibits a viscosity of  $10^7$ - $10^8$  dPa·s.

75. (previously presented) The process of claim 73, wherein the glass preform is heated to a temperature corresponding to a viscosity in the glass preform of less than  $10^9$  dPa·s and softened, and the softened glass preform is press-molded with a mold preheated to a temperature at which the glass preform exhibits a viscosity of  $10^9$ - $10^{12}$  dPa·s.